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Amendments to the claims:

1. **(Previously presented)** A microfluidic analytical device comprising:  
a microfluidic separation column containing stationary phase material and adapted to perform a pressure-driven chromatographic separation process;  
an optical detection region disposed downstream of the microfluidic separation column, the optical detection region being substantially free of stationary phase material and being bounded by at least one substantially optically transmissive material; and  
a substantially planar porous membrane disposed downstream of the optical detection region, the porous membrane permitting liquid flow therethrough at an operating pressure.
2. **(Cancelled)**
3. **(Previously presented)** The device of claim 1 wherein the membrane is a permeable polyolefin membrane.
4. **(Cancelled)**
5. **(Cancelled)**
6. **(Original)** The device of claim 1 wherein the device is substantially planar and comprises a plurality of substantially planar device layers.
7. **(Original)** The device of claim 1 wherein the plurality of device layers comprises adhesiveless polymeric layers that are interpenetrably bound together to form a substantially sealed microstructure.
8. **(Original)** The device of claim 7 wherein each device layer of plurality of device layers is substantially metal-free.
9. **(Original)** The device of claim 6 wherein the plurality of substantially planar device layers includes a plurality of stencil layers.